

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9001

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 5 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT SYRO-PALESTINIAN

TALKS, BEIRUT CEASEFIRE AND PROJECTED QUADRIpartite MEETING

IN SOFAR

1. SYRIAN MEDIA STRESSED NEGOTIATING PROGRESS TO RESOLVE
LEBANESE CRISIS. PRESS BANNERED: "PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN
SIDES DISCUSS MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT DAMASCUS AGREEMENT.
QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE MEETS TODAY, AND AGREEMENT TO
CEASEFIRE (GOES INTO EFFECT) THIS MORNING. HIGHER COMMITTEE
FOR HALTING FIGHTING EXPECTED TO CONVENE TODAY IN SOFAR.

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KAMAL AS'AD CALLS FOR INITIATING POLITICAL DIALOGUE.

ARAB NEWS MEDIA CONDEMN FABRICATIONS OF SINAI AGREEMENT
PARTIES AGAINST SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD."

2. SYRO-PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS MET AUG. 4, WITH
DR. KHOULI ATTENDING PART OF SESSION. QADDUMI LATER
TOLD SANA THAT, "FIXING DATE FOR MEETING OF QUADRI-
PARTITE COMMITTEE, WHICH CONSISTS OF ALL PARTIES, AS
FIRST STEP TOWARD CEASEFIRE WAS DISCUSSED. THIS
COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO MEET TODAY TO DISCUSS QUESTION
OF TAKING FURTHER STEPS ON ROAD TO IMPLEMENTING DAMASCUS
ACCORD." SYRIAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MAJ. GEN. NAJI
JIMAL AND BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND RESERVE MEMBER
JAMIL SHAYYA. POL CONFEREES INCLUDED ABD RABBU, ABU
MAYZAR, SALAH RAF'AT (PDFLP), AND ABU MAHER (FATAH).

3. MEDIA ANNOUNCED CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE 0800
THIS MORNING AND AGREEMENT TO FORM PERMANENT MILITARY
COMMITTEE ASSOCIATED WITH ASF, SECOND TELL ZAATAR
EVACUATION REPORTED.

4. MEDIA DENOUNCED MEETINGS BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF AHMAD
AL-KHATIB'S LAA AND ISRAELI OFFICERS AT RAS NAQURA.
NOTING THAT MEETINGS TOOK PLACE "UNDER PRETEXT OF MAIN-
TAINING SECURITY IN SOUTH LEBANON," PRESS CHARGED THAT
"THESE SUSPICIOUS CONTACTS HAVE EXPOSED TRUE FACE OF
THOSE WHO TALK IN NAME OF ARABISM AND LEBANON, AND HAVE
ALSO EXPOSED THEIR TREACHEROUS ROLE IN PRECIPITATING
MATTERS IN LEBANON AND DRIVING IT TOWARD CHAOS AND
DESTRUCTION."

5. PRESS REPORTED SUPPORT BY INTERNATIONAL JORNALISTS
FEDERATION MEETING IN PRAGUE FOR PRES. ASAD'S POLICY IN
LEBANON. SYRIAN DELEGATION LED BY DIRGEN SANA, SABER
FALHOUT, EXPLAINED TO ASSEMBLY SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON.
ACCORDING TO PRESS, ASAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM ARAB
COMMUNITY IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN SUPPORT OF SYRIAN ACTIONS
IN LEBANON. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN KUWAIT MET PREVIOUS
DAY WITH KUWAITI INFOMIN TO TANK KUWAIT FOR ITS SUPPORT
OF DAMASCUS ACCORD.

6. TISHRIIN REPORTED ARTICLE IN PREVIOUS DAY'S ISSUE OF
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PRAVDA (MOSCOW 12308) WHICH WELCOMED DAMASCUS ACCORD AS
ENCOURAGING FIRST STEP TOWARDS RESTORATION OF NORMAL
SYRO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO TISHRIIN
VERSION OF ARTICLE, PRAVDA ADMITTED THAT ACCORD DID NOT
RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS. ARTICLE MENTIONED THAT ACCORD HAD
BEEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM BY "WESTERN AND REACTIONARY
PRESS." TISHRIIN CONCLUDED THAT, "OBSERVERS IN MOSCOW
SAY PRAVDA'S REFERENCE TO ATTACK AGAINST SYRO-PALESTINIAN

AGREEMENT AND TO UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS MAY BE AIMED AT SHORT SENTENCE UTTERED BY PLO LEADER ARAFAT, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO SOME WORDING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH IS SEPARATE FROM AGREEMENT. IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZED SINAI ACCORD."

7. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST DREDGED UP OLD CRITICISMS OF EGYPTIAN CONDUCT DURING OCTOBER 1973 WAR WHICH ALLEGEDLY PERMITTED ISRAELI FORCES TO CONCENTRATE AGAINST SYRIA. ANOTHER WRITER REVIEWED ISRAELI -LAA CONTACTS AND ACCUSED KHATIB OF COMMITTING HIGH TREASON. OMINOUSLY, HE ADDED THAT "FATE OF TRAITORS IS WELL KNOWN BY MASSES AND TRAITORS THEMSELVES."

8. COMMENT: EFFORT TO FURTHER BLACKEN KHATIB'S NAME AND UNDERMINE LEBANESE SUPPORT FOR LAA PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH SYRO-LEBANESE PLANS TO PACIFY SOUTH LEBANON AND TO ENLIST BREAKAWAY ELEMENTS OF LAA MUSLIM FORCES INTO LEBANESE ARMY VANGARDS. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD NO DOUBT WELCOME IN SYRIA AT TIME WHEN SERIOUS SYRO-PALESTINIAN TALKS UNDERWAY TO PAVE WAY FOR IMPLEMENTING ACCORD AND MAY GIVE ARAFAT USEFUL SUPPORT FOR OBTAINING ACQUIESCENCE OF PLO REJECTIONIST FACTIONS WHICH OPPOSE RECONCILIATION WITH SYRIA.
MURPHY

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